



July 2026



Spencer Pride General Meeting

our mission

At Spencer Pride, our mission is to improve the quality of life for rural LGBTQ+ people in South Central Indiana by:

- fostering allyship and understanding through education and advocacy,
- creating safe spaces that support both physical and mental well-being, and
- addressing social inequities that stem from the unique intersectionality of queer and rural identities



Spencer Pride commUnity center
17 E. Franklin Street, Spencer



You are included.

Please join us for our volunteer meeting this Sunday at 4 PM



- Learn about the latest Spencer Pride events and programs.
- Connect with others.
- Help inform our work.
- Have fun while making a difference in our community!

our vision

At Spencer Pride, our vision is to leverage our diversity and privilege in order to cultivate an inclusive community of compassion and celebration for rural LGBTQ+ people.



How you can participate:  In-Person or Via Zoom 

Support Lines

[The Trevor Project](#)
Text **Start** to 678678
1-866-488-7386

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)
Call or text 988

[SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline](#)
1-877-360-5428

[Substance Abuse & Addiction Hotline](#)
1-844-289-0879

[Trans Lifeline](#)
1-877-565-8860

Welcome Our New Executive Director

Monthly Programs



A group for lovers of books - including those "banned" for controversial content.
Meets at 5:30 pm on the 4th Thursday (also virtually). Contact Julie@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group!](#)

LGBT National Hotlines
National: 1-888-843-4564
Youth: 1-800-246-7743
Coming Out: 1-888-688-5428
Seniors: 1-888-234-7243

Middle Way House
1-812-336-0846

If you know of other support hotlines that should be included, please email info@SpencerPride.org. As always, if you are in immediate danger, 911 should be your first option.

Rainbow Cruisers to the Caribbean



We are excited to announce Spencer Pride's next cruise! We will be sailing to the Caribbean on the Celebrity Beyond from June 14-21, 2026. The cruise is open to anyone who wants to support our work and experience Pride Month with us on the ocean! It is a family-friendly experience that is sure to offer something for everyone.

To register or get more details, scan the QR code or visit <https://spencerpride.johnheathtravel.com/>. For each stateroom reserved, Spencer Pride will receive a donation. Our 2024 cruise to Alaska helped us raise \$4,000, and we hope to exceed that amount in 2026.



Did you know that the first penny press (a.k.a. a penny smashing machine) debuted at the Chicago's World Fair in 1893? Since that time these unique machines have popped up around the world and are highly sought by tourists and collectors alike. What does a penny smashing machine do? Well, it should come as no surprise that it smashes pennies. It does so while also imprinting a special design into the coin. Children of all ages love to crank the handle and feel the pressure build as the penny is compressed and imprinted.

Spencer Pride is proud to host Owen County's only penny smashing machine, which has arrived just in time for the eclipse! The Spencer



We know that many of you have been patiently waiting to hear the outcome of our recent executive director recruitment efforts, and we are excited to bring GOOD NEWS to you! The Executive Director Selection Committee, after a few months of reviewing applications, screening, and then interviewing candidates, made a recommendation to the board of directors last week to hire a candidate. The board approved the motion and authorized us to extend an offer.

We are happy to share that Jake Taylor (they/them) has accepted the position!

Jake is a native of rural Michigan, Missouri, and Indiana, and brings a background in community development, nonprofit work, education, and equity-centered practice. Jake holds an MA in Intercultural Encounters from the University of Helsinki and a BA in Journalism from Indiana University.

Before joining Spencer Pride, Jake served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Togo, partnering with local communities on education, health, and agricultural initiatives, managing grant-funded projects, working with local organizations, and helping launch a village library. They also served as a Team Leader with AmeriCorps NCCC, leading a team through disaster relief, public health, and community service projects across the United States.

Jake's experience includes advocacy and nonprofit work through roles with the Human Rights Campaign and the Center of Excellence for Women & Technology, where they supported equity programming, community engagement, and board relations.

We are excited about the diverse experiences that Jake brings to Spencer Pride, and in particular, their thoughtful and inclusive approach. They are passionate about creating welcoming spaces, strengthening communities, and building systems that help people feel seen, supported, and connected. We believe that Jake will be an excellent representative for Spencer Pride and a powerful advocate for our mission.

As for Jake's passions outside of work, they enjoy reading, language learning, and spending time outdoors.

Jake just wrapped up their MA program in Helsinki, Finland this month and is excited to return to Indiana and work alongside our volunteers and board members in support of our work. Due to Jake's relocation, some much earned time-off, and their sister's wedding, Jake will officially join Spencer Pride on **August 19**.

We will be sharing additional details about Jake's onboarding over the next couple of months. Please join us in welcoming Jake to the Spencer Pride family!

Save the Date: Our 20th Festival!



Meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 6:15 pm. Individuals bring their own mat, all abilities and level welcome. For more information, contact Julie.M@SpencerPride.org



A group for people who quilt, scrapbook, paint, decoupage, or anything of the like. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday from 5 pm to 7 pm. Individuals bring their own supplies to work on a project while others do the same. For more information, contact Terry@SpencerPride.org.



A group for people who love dancing and want to learn it and do it whenever they can. Meets at 6:15 pm on Thursdays. Contact Jacob@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



A spousal grief support group for members of the LGBTQ+ community & allies. Meets at 5:30 pm on the 1st Wednesday. Contact Grief.Haven@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



A group for LGBTQ+ teens and allies (10-19) to connect, support each other, and have fun. Meets at 5 pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday. Contact Joy@SpencerPride.org for more info. Follow us in Instagram!



A group for people who love birds and want to explore our natural world. Meets for outings on the 3rd Saturday, and special events. Contact Rainbow.Birders@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



A social group for families with LGBTQ+ members. Meets quarterly. Contact Shea@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



An inclusive Dungeons & Dragons RGP ang gaming group. RPG meets as scheduled. Open Game Night 3rd Saturday @ 4 pm. Contact Rainbow.Rollers@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



A group for people who wish to live a more peaceful, joyful, and loving life. Meets at 4 pm on the third Sunday. Contact Karen@SpencerPride.org for more info.

All monthly programs are free to participate and require no advanced registration.

We also host routine health & wellness services and monthly educational programming, in addition to annual events like the Spencer Pride Festival. For more

Pride machine features 5 designs, each featuring a special place in Spencer. The penny smashing machine was sponsored in part by Babbs, the Historic Tivoli Theatre, McCormick's Creek State Park, and Sweet Owen Convention & Visitors Bureau. Each coin takes 4 quarters and one penny (just \$1.01 for an awesome souvenir!).

The Owen News

Come get the latest copy of [The Owen News](#) at the commUnity center! We are open Wednesday through Sunday 10 am until 7 pm. Support your local news organization!



Save the date! We are celebrating the 20th annual Spencer Pride Festival on Saturday, October 3. We hope you'll join us for our biggest and most spectacular festival ever!

2026 Pride Festivals



Our friends at Greenwood Pride are using their website to manage and host a festival page for all of the pride organizations in the [Indiana Pride Network](#).

Be sure to click the link and check out other festivals throughout Indiana in 2026.

Annual Background Checks



It's that time again! Our annual background check updates. Please be on the lookout for an email from Sterling Volunteers during July (also check your spam folder). You will have 72 hours to respond to that email. The procedure will be as follows: Initial email sent to those needing to update their background check. After 7 days, a reminder will be sent out. After 14 days, the Volunteer Coordinator will be sent a list of volunteers who need to complete a background check to help facilitate the process. We hope to have all background checks completed within the month of July.

Per our policy:

It is the policy of Spencer Pride, Inc., to perform routine background checks to ensure the safety of our volunteers, the individuals we serve, and our assets. Once the initial background check has been completed, volunteers will be subject to recurring background checks at intervals based upon their role within the organization.

- Volunteers serving as a Director will be subject to a background check upon election or re-election. This ensures that organization leaders undergo a check at least every two years. This requirement may be applied to other*

information, ask a Spencer Pride volunteer or contact us at info@SpencerPride.org.

organizational leaders appointed by the Board of Directors.

- Volunteers who lead or work with youth regularly will be subject to an annual background check.
- All other volunteers other than those described above will be subject to a background check every 3 years or less, as deemed appropriate by Volunteer Coordinator.

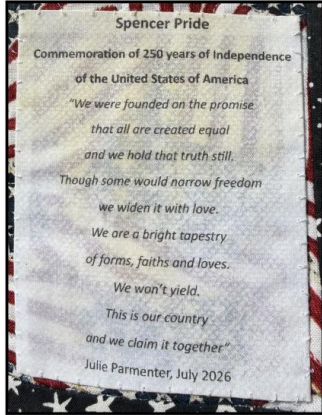
Quilt Sweepstakes



RED, WHITE & RAINBOW QUILT SWEEPSTAKES

Stunning bespoke quilt (74" x 62") created by Julie Parmenter reimagines the iconic American flag through a vibrant LGBTQ+ lens.

CELEBRATING TWO MONUMENTAL MILESTONES IN 2026! SPENCER PRIDE'S 20TH PRIDE MONTH & AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY.



\$5/ticket or 6/\$25

<http://go.rallyup.com/spi20a150>
or text 'spencerpride' to 33100

CELEBRATE TWO MONUMENTAL MILESTONES IN 2026!

Own a stunning piece of textile art that beautifully weaves together history, unity, and pride! We are thrilled to announce Spencer Pride's 20th Anniversary / America250 Quilt Sweepstakes now through July 15.

Enter online at go.rallyup.com/spi20a150, or visit our commUnity center at 17 E Franklin Street Spencer, Indiana 47460, 10a-7p Wednesday through Sunday to purchase tickets.

You can also scan the QR code below to visit the website, or text 'spencerpride' to 33100 to have the sweepstakes website sent to you.

Tickets are \$5 each, or get 6 tickets for \$25!

This one-of-a-kind, bespoke masterpiece was lovingly handcrafted by our amazing artisan volunteer, Julie Parmenter. It uniquely commemorates both the 20th anniversary of Spencer Pride celebrating Pride Month and the United States' 250th Semiquincentennial Anniversary.

It is perfect as a statement wall hanging, a cozy linen, or a cherished family heirloom.

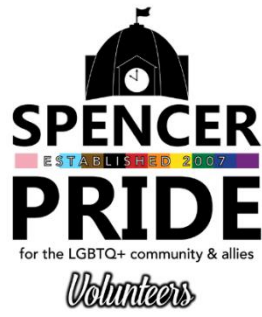
* A Vibrant Reimagining: Measuring a generous ~74" x ~62", this quilt reimagines the iconic American flag through a vibrant LGBTQ+ lens, featuring a pieced blue canton alongside stunning vertical rainbow stripes.

* The Heart of the Quilt: Look closely at the pristine white stripes, where Julie has stitched a powerful, custom embroidered message:
"We were founded on the promise that all are created equal, and we hold that truth still. Though some would narrow freedom, we widen it with love. We are a bright tapestry of forms, faiths and loves. We won't yield. This is our country, and we claim it together."

*Beautifully Backed: Flip it over to find a classic American Flag fabric on the back and a block of Julie's embroidered message.

This quilt is far more than a fundraiser; it is a profound declaration of love, inclusion, and the enduring American promise. Don't miss your chance to bring this incredible piece of art into your home!

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW. See official sweepstakes rules on the entry website for complete details.



Open Shifts

Text or call Jacob
at 812-821-1442,
or watch our Facebook
Volunteer group for
posts announcing
opportunities!



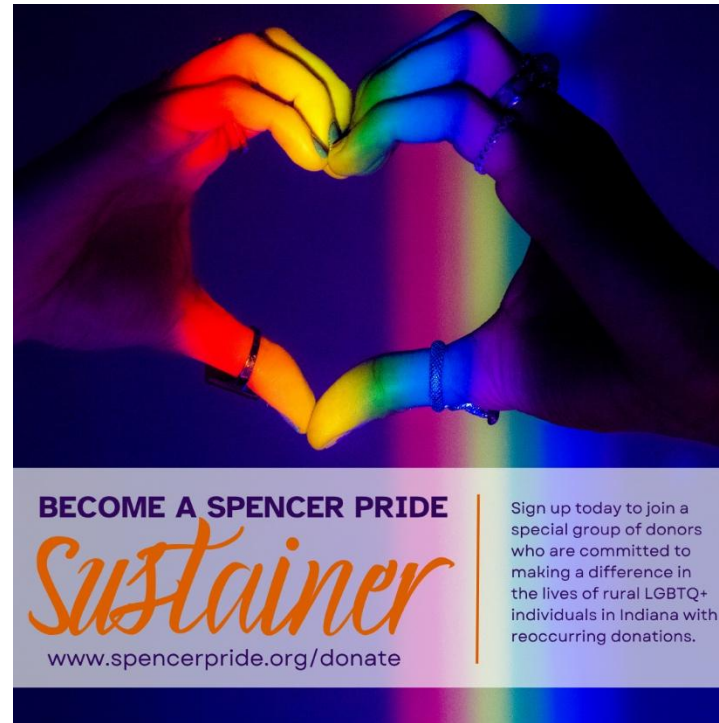
Fundraising News

Become A Sustainer

We are incredibly thankful for our sustainers!
These amazing supporters give at a regular
interval to cover 50% of the commUnity center's
monthly operation costs.

Our goal for 2026 is to grow our Sustainer
program to cover 100% of our center's operating
costs.

To become a Sustainer, reach out to our
Fundraising Director, Elisabeth Solchik, or you
can start the process on our website:
<https://spencerpride.org/donate/>



Did you know you could help support Spencer Pride while you are shopping?

**support
spencer pride
through corporate
MATCHING**

EIN: 26-2197732
ASK YOUR HR/BENEFITS REP FOR
MORE INFORMATION!

Matching gift programs are
just one of the many types of
corporate philanthropy
initiatives that companies have,
but \$4 – \$7 BILLION in matching
gift funds are unclaimed each year!

PHILANTHROPY 101: When an
employee makes a donation, they'll
request the matching gift from their
employer, who then makes their own
donation. Companies usually match
donations at a 1:1 ratio.

These philanthropy programs
allow us to maximize the impact
of our donations – ask your
employer today to help make an
impact in the Spencer
community.

SPENCER PRIDE
for the LGBTQ+ community & allies

Kroger

**COMMUNITY REWARDS UPDATE
FOR Q4 2025**

YOU CAN HELP!

1. Register your existing Kroger Plus card, or create a new digital card at:
<https://www.kroger.com/signin>
2. Under your Kroger Profile > go to
Community Rewards > Enroll:
3. Search **EU230** to find
Spencer Pride.

To learn more about linking your Kroger
Rewards Card to Spencer Pride:
<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

37 households
\$55 donated

SPENCER PRIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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he/him
President
Programming Director
Committee(s): E, P, S



John Angeline

he/him
Communications Director
Committee(s): D



Kim Fidler

she/her
Secretary
Advocacy Director
Committee(s): E, P, S



Jacob Balash

he/him
commUnity center Director
Committee(s): P



Shea Finnegan

he/him
Director
Committee(s): P



Elisabeth Solchik

she/her
Vice President
Development Director
Committee(s): E, D, S



Joy Kellman

she/her
Youth Empowerment Director
Committee(s): P



Wendy Wonderley

she/her
Treasurer
Committee(s): E, F, P



Rex Kinkle

he/him
Outreach Director
Committee(s): D



Martha Nally

she/her
Relationship Development
Director
Committee(s): D

COMMITTEE LEGEND: D = Development, E = Executive,
F = Finance, P = Programming S = ED Selection

For more information about
our Board, please scan here:



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

A commUnity center Sponsor provides much needed support to assist with our current programming as well as with our future building expansion and programming that supports the LGBTQ+ community.

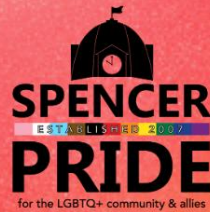
If you or someone you know would like to be a Sponsor, click [here](#) for more details!

A Spencer Pride Sustainer is a donor who gives at a regular interval – monthly, quarterly, or annually – for as little as \$5/month.

We are incredibly thankful for our 2026 sustainers. These amazing supporters give at a regular interval to cover over 75% of the commUnity center's current monthly operation costs.

To become a Sustainer, reach out to our Vice President and Development Director, Elisabeth Solchik at Elisabeth@spencerpride.org, or you can start the process through our website: <https://spencerpride.org/donate/>

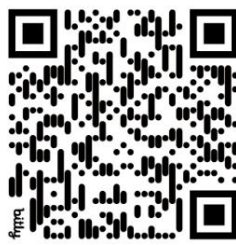
Check the box "Show my support by making this a recurring donation"
And in the blank space that is a drop-down field for "My donation is for," select "Sustainer (Recurring)"



2026 Sustainers

Ben Ale-Ebrahim	Tyler DeFord	Bob Marshall	Anna Spears
John* Angeline	Carl Deitchman	Lucie Mathieu	Damon Spivey
Jonathan* Balash	Elizabeth DeVoe	Jody May	Marcia Steele
Jacob* Balash	Chad Eppelheimer	Felix McBeath	Michael Stevenson
Truman Balash	Kim* Fidler	Cathy McFarland	Ryan Stringer
Kathy Balash	Shea Finnegan*	David McFarland	Kayla Tackett
Fred Balash	Eric Flynn-McCormick	Berta Medicus-Moore	Kate Tavernier
Marion Banzhaf	Jim Frohlinger	Debbie Messer	Mitch Teplitsky
Connie Barton	David Friedel	Jennifer Morris	Therry The
Robene R. Bates	Darrell Frye	Martha* Nally	Brayton Thompson
Sienna J. Bates	Patrick Gallagher	Joe Newman	Marci Tillison
Barbara Bauer	Cathy C. Gebhard	Donna Nicholas	Terese Urban
Vic Bequeret	Kate Gehringer	Amanda Nixon	Nicole Vasconi
Glenda Breeden	Athena Goulet	Ed O'Brien	Karla Vedder
Bill Breeden	Kathy Griffey	Phillip O'Neil	Erica Whichello
George Brinson	Lynn Griffey-Ennis	Jameson O'Neil	Peggy Whitlow
Jessica Brinson	John Grisham	Caroline Owens	Karen Williams
Jennifer Brown	Cari Hale	Mark Parmenter	Wendy* Wonderley
Stephen Brown	Jackie Hall	Julie Parmenter	Don Wooldridge
Wren Brown	Nicholas Heck	Carri Ranard	Cathy Wyatt
Pam Browning	Mary Heldt	Mia Ranard	Dan Wyatt
Dean Bruce	Joy* Hellman	Lucy Ransdell	Karen Zuber
Marcia Bruce	David Henk	Alan Rice	Tom Zuber
Linda Bucklin	Ann Henk	Janet Rummel	Katie Zuber
Alex Butrum-Griffith	Rex* Hinkle	Eric Sader	
Linda Campbell	Cindy Houston	Bethany Satrom	
John Cash	Jennifer Hurtubise	Dorcilla Schoolman	
Nathaniel Clawson	Melanie Keller	John Settle-Corbin	
Beth Clawson	Christy Kelley	Lynne Shiffriss	
Allie Cogan McHaley	Kathy Kessler	Casey Shively	
Claire Cogan McHaley	Matt Kirk	Kathryn Shumate	
Patti Cowin	Donna Lowe	Kathy Sideli	
Christy Crandall	Ann Mahrdt	RJ Sliva	
Eric Crown	Marissa Mallo	Jenny Smith	
Dave Debikey		Elisabeth* Solchik	
Kelli Debikey		Cat Spratt	

*Board of Directors



Become a Sustainer

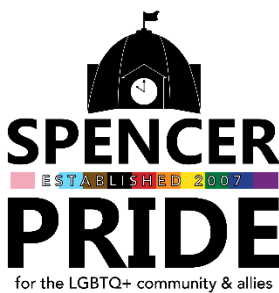
PURPLE SPONSOR



**OCTOBER 4
SPENCER, IN**

Thanks again for your support!

Our Contact Information
Spencer Pride, Inc.
PO Box 585
Spencer, IN 47460
812-652-5000
<http://www.SpencerPride.org>



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